

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 246649

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, LI, US

SUBJECT: TOLBERT VISIT

SUMMARY: TOLBERT DEPARTED US NOV 6 FOR STATE VISIT TO BARBADOS. BOTH NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON PORTIONS OF VISIT VIEWED AS SUCCESS BOTH IN TERMS OF WELCOME ACCORDED AND SUBSTANTIVE TALK WITH PRESIDENT FORD, AND ACTING SECRETARY INGERSOLL.

1. NEW YORK STAY HIGHLIGHTED BY HIS RECEIPT OF FAMILY OF MAN AWARD AND APPEARANCE (LIVE) ON NBC'S TODAY SHOW. REPLYING TO QUESTION ON SOUTH AFRICA, HE COMMENTED THAT SITUATION IN SA OF GREAT CONCERN TO ALL AFRICANS IN-

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PAGE 02 STATE 246649

CLUDING LIBERIANS AND IT IS HIS CONSTANT WISH SA QUESTION

BE RESOLVED AND BE FOLLOWED BY "REAL GENUINE DEMOCRACY AND REPRESENTATION" BASED ON THE EQUALITY OF INDIVIDUALS OF ALL RACES. ALSO THOUGHT EXPULSION FROM UN BEST WAY OF PRESSURING SA TO ALTER ITS RACIAL POLICIES. SINCE US, UK, AND FRANCE CAST VETO THEY SHOULD IMMEDIATELY SEEK WITHIN SECURITY COUNCIL OTHER MEANS OF RESOLVING THE ISSUE.

2. TOLBERT WHITE HOUSE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD WELL- COVERED BY BOTH WASHINGTON POST AND NY TIMES. WHITE HOUSE PRESS AIDE GAVE THREE MINUTE NEWS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING

MEETING. PORTION OF HIS STATEMENT WHICH APPEARED IN POST FOLLOWS: "THE PRESIDENT AFFIRMED TO PRESIDENT TOLBERT THAT AFRICAN INTERESTS WILL BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY IN THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE ADMINISTRATION, AND THAT THE PRESIDENT'S PRIMARY GOAL IS TO INCREASE OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEMS AND ASPIRATIONS OF AFRICA AND TO FIND NEW WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN BE HELPFUL".

3. FOLLOWING WHITE HOUSE VISIT TOLBERT, ACCOMPANIED BY FOREIGN MINISTER DENNIS, AMBASSADOR PEAL, MINISTER NEAL, AND SEVERAL OTHERS, CALLED ON ACTING SECRETARY INGERSOLL. ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY MULCAHY, AID ACTING ADMINISTRATOR MURPHY, AND AF/W DIRECTOR ALSO PRESENT. TOLBERT APPLAUDED SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PEACE EFFORTS AND EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER WHAT HE CALLED UNJUST CRITICISM WHEN THINGS GO BADLY FOR THE SECRETARY. TOLBERT IS STILL ANXIOUS TO HAVE THE SECRETARY VISIT AFRICA, LIBERIA IN PARTICULAR, BUT REALIZES SECRETARY'S PREOCCUPATION WITH MIDDLE EAST AND OTHER WORLD PROBLEMS. TOLBERT TOLD INGERSOLL THAT ALTHOUGH ADVANCES HAVE BEEN MADE IN DECOLONIALIZATION IN AFRICA, HE STILL VERY MUCH CONCERNED WITH PROBLEMS OF INEQUALITY, RACISM, AND THE SLOW RATE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH. HE STRESSED LATTER POINT REEMPHASIZING LIBERIA'S NEED FOR INCREASED BILATERAL ASSISTANCE. TOLBERT INQUIRED WHETHER PL 480 ASSISTANCE TO LIBERIA AFFECTED BY RECENT ADVERSE US WEATHER CONDITIONS. MURPHY, AID, SAID UNABLE DETERMINE BEFORE DECEMBER OR JANUARY WHEN ACCURATE FOOD CROP DATA AVAILABLE. INGERSOLL REMINDED TOLBERT OF SECRETARY'S RECENT TRAVEL TO AREAS MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY FOOD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 246649

SHORTAGES AND HIS INABILITY TO MAKE STRONG COMMITMENTS ON FOOD ASSISTANCE. INGERSOLL ALSO EXPRESSED HOPE SECRETARY'S FOOD RESERVE PROPOSAL ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH CONSUMING AND PRODUCING COUNTRIES AND NOTED THAT TO ACHIEVE FOOD RESERVE LEVELS NECESSARY TO FEED THE WORLD WOULD REQUIRE COOPERATIVE EFFORTS OF ALL NATIONS. INGERSOLL EXPRESSED THANKS FOR LIBERIA'S SUPPORT OF ASIAN RESOLUTION IN UN AND NOTED SECRETARY'S GRATITUDE FOR THIS SUPPORT.

IN RESPONSE TO TOLBERT'S EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE ENERGY TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ACT PRESENTLY BEFORE CONGRESS, INGERSOLL STATED EVERY USG AGENCY AND THE PRESIDENT OPPOSED TO LEGISLATION, NOTING BILL CONTRARY TO US TRADE POLICY AND THAT EVERY EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO DEFEAT IT IN SENATE. IN CONCLUDING PRESIDENT SAID HE HAPPY TO HEAR EFFORTS BEING MADE TO REPEAL BYRD AMENDMENT.

4. NEAL, AND DEPUTY FINANCE MINISTER WILLIAMS MET LATER IN DAY WITH MURPHY, ADAMS, GRIFFITH, AID AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BLAKE AND ALTERNATE AF/W DIRECTOR TO

DISCUSS MAJOR AID ISSUES. MEMCON COVERING DETAILS THIS MEETING BEING POUCHED.

COMMENT: TOLBERT APPARENTLY SATISFIED WITH RESULTS BOTH PORTIONS OF TRIP AND AMBASSADOR PEAL EXPRESSED GRATITUDE DEPARTMENT'S EFFORTS TO ENHANCE VISIT. MAW

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